**Qs. Discuss the summery of Pickwick Papers Chapters 1**

**Ans**. On May 12, 1827, the Pickwick Club of London listens to Mr. Pickwick's paper, "Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds, with some Observations on the Theory of Title bats." In order to extend the field of Mr. Pickwick's knowledge, the club votes for a traveling society that will consist of Samuel Pickwick, Tracy Tupman, Augustus Snodgrass, and Nathaniel Winkle. Each will have to pay his own expenses and send reports back to the club. A fat, elderly, bald man, Mr. Pickwick is facetiously presented as a profound thinker. Tupman is a fat, middle-aged ladies' man, Snodgrass is a poet, and Winkle is a sportsman.

The club chairman, Mr. Pickwick, climbs up on a chair to make a speech about his desire to benefit mankind through scientific knowledge and information about the danger of accidents in travel, to which a member called Blotton objects, telling him he is a humbug. Mr. Pickwick is angered by this insult and confusion ensues. At last things are straightened out when Pickwick and Blotton say they did not intend their remarks in the common sense but in the "Pickwickian sense."

The tone of this opening chapter is patronizing, pompous, and tongue-in-cheek. Dickens appears to be satirizing "scientific" clubs, since the object of the Pickwick Club seems to be one of contributing to "scientific" information. Mr. Pickwick, we infer, is a silly old fool surrounded by worshipful admirers. His paper on the Hampstead Ponds and title bats is absurd, one assumes, because the phrase "the theory of" is worded unscientifically; title bats do exist, however, and are small, bony fish.

Mr. Pickwick is full of self-congratulation in assuming that his work will benefit humanity and in exaggerating the dangers he will face in traveling. His benign aplomb is shaken, however, when Blotton calls him a humbug. A name-calling session ensues, which effectively destroys any pretense Mr. Pickwick may have had to scientific objectivity. His good humor is restored only when Blotton flatters him by saying that he meant "humbug" in a Pickwickian sense. "Pickwickian sense" is harmless nonsense, a means of retreating from an angry statement, yet it suggests the clubbish atmosphere and Mr. Pickwick's patriarchal role in the club.

Another element of this chapter is worth looking into — the aspect of boyishness. A club like this, all male, usually produces a resurgence of the boyhood spirit, somewhat as fraternities do. It is a snug refuge away from feminine influence, a place where men can be themselves and allow the boy in them free expression. This spirit continues unimpaired through the greater part of the novel, until prison and romance become prominent. Boyishness is stated as one of Tupman's traits, but it is also evident in the foolish title of Mr. Pickwick's paper, in the assumption that scientific doodling is of great importance, in the pompous and cumbersome initials attached to each name, in the appending of inappropriate interests to the main members (which is like calling a fat boy "Slats"), in Mr. Pickwick getting up on his chair to make a speech, in the vainglorious speech, in the name-calling that follows, and in the making-up. So far Mr. Pickwick's childish innocence has been emphasized, but his better qualities will emerge later.

Most of all, though, there is something callow in the inflated, condescending, facetious style of the chapter, which superficially mimics the minutes of a club. One suspects that this was an attempt on Dickens' part (he was twenty-four when he began writing *Pickwick Papers)*to enter into the spirit of the Pickwick Club, to project its jejune tone. In his heavy-handedness, we recognize that Dickens is but one step removed from the silly behavior of his characters. However, none of this is out of keeping with the youthful sense of fun that pervades the novel.

**Qs. Write critically the summery of The Pickwick Paper Chapter 2.**

**Ans.** [Mr. Pickwick](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Pickwick) sets off on his travels. Even before leaving London, he accidentally upsets a cab driver, who challenges him to a fight. Mr. Pickwick and his friends are rescued by a tall, thin young man, whom they later learn is named [Mr. Jingle](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Jingle). They all take the coach to Rochester together, and the Pickwickians enjoy Mr. Jingle's company. After dinner, which they share with Jingle, the Pickwickians doze off, except for Mr. Jingle and [Mr. Tupman](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Tupman), who decide to attend a ball being held at the inn. Mr. Jingle doesn't have the proper clothes, so Mr. Tupman lends him a new suit of [Mr. Winkle](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Winkle)'s, which features special "P.C." buttons to honor the Pickwick Club. At the ball Mr. Jingle interferes with a local doctor's romance with a widow. He succeeds so well that the doctor challenges him to a duel, but Mr. Jingle ignores him and leaves.

The next morning a messenger arrives asking for a man who wears a coat with "P.C." buttons. Since it is Mr. Winkle's coat, he receives a challenge. He was drunk and has no memory of the previous night, but the messenger describes his coat precisely, so he feels obligated to participate. He swears [Mr. Snodgrass](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Snodgrass) to secrecy and invites him to be his second for the duel. Mr. Winkle is terrified that he will be shot, but Dr. Slammer, the insulted doctor, realizes that Mr. Winkle was not the man who insulted him. The matter is cleared up and Mr. Winkle and Mr. Snodgrass invite the doctor and his friends to dine with the Pickwickians that evening.

[Mr. Pickwick](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Pickwick) and his friends set off on their travels and immediately run into trouble. Mr. Pickwick may be highly esteemed by the members of his club, but he is shockingly naïve for an older man. He realizes that his note taking has led the cab driver to believe he is an "informer," but he is unable to combat the charge or extract himself or his friends from the angry crowd. This incident also contrasts with the argument in the last chapter: Blotton and Mr. Pickwick, while speaking forcefully, are both willing, even eager, to withdraw their statements and end the fight. The cabman and the mob that supports him won't be satisfied without a physical battle. This won't be the last time that Mr. Pickwick is surprised by the realities of life outside his sheltered world.

This chapter introduces [Mr. Jingle](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Jingle), although he is known only as "the tall, thin man" for some time. Mr. Jingle is an extraordinary creature: he wears once-elegant clothes that are now old and dirty, and the clothes were clearly designed for a smaller man. At first Mr. Jingle seems heroic: he rescues the Pickwickians from the mob, after all. A careful reading of that incident shows that Mr. Jingle is, in fact, adept at using the situation to his advantage. He calls for brandy and water to soothe the Pickwickians' nerves, but he drinks plenty of it himself and claims he doesn't have the right change to pay. Notice the name "Mr. Jingle"—it sounds harmless and inoffensive, but it also brings to mind the sound of coins clinking together. By the time of the incident at the ball, most readers of [Dickens](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/author/)'s time would be aware that Mr. Jingle is behaving inappropriately.

Duels come up repeatedly in ThePickwick Papers, but this is the closest any Pickwickian ever gets to fighting. Duels had been a more common practice in the England of earlier days, but by the 1800s they were falling out of favor. Duels usually were held to avenge an insult to someone's honor. Each person in the duel had a "second," a friend who was responsible for trying to negotiate a peaceful settlement, but also made arrangements for the weapons and for a doctor to be present at the site of the duel. [Mr. Winkle](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Pickwick-Papers/character-analysis/#Mr._Winkle)'s reluctance to duel also provides some insight into his character: someone who is an excellent hunter and sportsman might be less perturbed at the idea of a duel. Fortunately for Mr. Winkle, Dr. Slammer realizes his mistake and the entire duel scenario ends up being more of a farce than a tragedy. In case the farcical qualities of the duel weren't obvious enough, in a fight between someone named Slammer and someone named Mr. Winkle, who seems likely to win? Dickens uses the doctor's name to convey his nature.